Zapata-Barrero, Ricard; Vintila, Daniela (eds.) (2024). *How To Do Migration Research*. Cheltenham UK: Edward Elgar. 204 pp.

Despite the huge growth in literature and research on migration in recent decades, there have been few comprehensive guides on how to actually *do* research on migration. The main precursor, and therefore competitor, to the volume under re-

view is Carlos Vargas-Silva (ed.) *Handbook of Research Methods in Migration*. Cheltenham UK: Edward Elgar, 2012. Also worth noting are two books which cover only qualitative methods in migration research: Theodoros Iosifides, *Qualitative Methods in Migration Studies*. Farnham UK: Ashgate, 2011; and Ricard Zapata-Barrero, Evren Yalaz (eds.) *Qualitative Research in European Migration Studies*. Cham: Springer, 2018. Zapata-Barrero and Vintila draw a line under these previous volumes and claim, somewhat tendentiously, that their book «covers more methodological ground … offer[ing] a more holistic, pragmatic and strategic orientation to migration research» (p. 3). The stated target audience for the book is broad: undergraduate and postgraduate students, and others contributing to the field of migration studies, including more experienced scholars and practitioners.

The architecture of the book is structured into four parts and a total of 22 chapters. Part 1 is entitled «Distinctive features in migration research» and explores a number of important epistemological, philosophical and linguistic issues across five well-argued chapters. Convincing yet concise statements are laid out on 'contested concepts' in migration (Ricard Zapata-Barrero), interdisciplinarity (Jan Rath), intersectionality (Parvati Raghuram and Gunjan Sondhi), mixed methods (Jørgen Carling) and 'migration research beyond the nation-state' (Verena Wisthaler and Mireille Paquet).

Part 2, on «Doing qualitative migration research», opens with Justyna Salamo□ska's chapter which gives some "practical tips" on the pros and cons of qualitative methods, stressing the importance of context, reflexivity and flexibility but also cautioning on the limited generalisability of many qualitative studies. This is followed, in turn, by a critical analysis of the advantages and challenges of multi-sited research designs (Valentina Mazzucato), an overview of ethnographic methods (Franck Düvell), a dive into qualitative analysis software (Guy Drudi and Bob White), and a practical guide to working in archives and analysing archival data (Monica Varsanyi).

Part 3 provides the obvious complement to Part 2, and is on 'Doing quantitative migration research', with six chapters. The opening chapter by Daniela Vintila gives a useful if brief overview of the benefits of applying quantitative methods to migration research, as well as highlighting some challenges. The strengths lie in large survey or sample size, facilitating robust analysis and generalisation, and reducing margins of error. Fur-

ther advantages lie in ease of data collection, for instance via online surveys or population censuses and registers, the possibility of replication, and the ability to provide clear evidence to policy-makers. The challenges involve ensuring data soundness (many migration datasets are biased, flawed or incomplete), the datedness of secondary sources such as censuses, and matching available data to research objectives or policy needs.

The other chapters in this section are more focused on specific aspects of quantitative methods: surveys, questionnaires and sampling (Steffen Potzschke), experimental research designs and the issue of causality (Daniel Auer), social media data on migration (Jasper Tajden), public opinion surveys relating to migration – the European Social Survey, Eurobarometer, European Values Study, International Social Survey Programme (Abdeslam Marfouk), and finally the design and use of migration indices and indicators (Lucy Pedrosa and Pau Palop-Garcia).

Part 4 is a bit different from the rest of the book and consists of a more varied suite of essays on communicating and sharing the results of migration research. The first chapter in this section is a potentially important but tantalisingly brief exposition of reflexivity by Leila Hadj Abdou. Whilst briefly acknowledging the 'reflexive turn' in migration studies, the chapter focuses more on issues surrounding the nation-state and governance rather than exploring researcher ethics and positionality. Ethical issues are, instead, the subject of the following chapter by Christina Clark-Kazak, including the temptation of 'expert' scholars to gain academic capital by «stealing the stories of migrants» (p. 154). The next chapter, by Nathan Levy, Asya Pisarevskaya and Peter Scholten, is a literature review of migration studies – not a conventional literature review but a systematic analysis based on harvesting data on tens of thousands of papers and processing the results via a fourfold taxonomy (methods, disciplines, geographies and topics) designed to identify clusters of themes and 'epistemic communities' of migration scholars. This is fascinating stuff, but it is a pity that some of the diagrams are only partly legible. The final three chapters are on how to publish and disseminate the results of migration research. Ernesto Castañeda warns of the pitfalls to be avoided when presenting research findings to journalists and the public; Irina Isaakyan provides a guide to journal article publishing; and Albert Kraler focuses on making research relevant to the policy-making community.

This volume undoubtedly provides useful information for existing and would-be migration researchers, much of the guidance being highly practical. I feel that the book is optimally used by students and beginning researchers rather than experienced research scholars. Advanced researchers might want more depth in the chapters (most of which are around 6–8 pages) and more references in the currently skeletal bibliographies. Not all chapters live up to the promise of their titles; coverage is sometimes patchy. Other issues that I felt were inadequately treated were gender in migration research; the theme of coloniality and the need to "decolonise" migration; the need to embed migration in the study of wider global social, economic and geopolitical processes; and more hands-on guidance on certain specific research techniques such as focus groups, mobile methods, mapping migration, and the usefulness of longitudinal studies. Russell KING